

VALLEY HOMES ATTRACTING MANY

El Paso Noted For Its Floral Beauty

EL PASO HAS 19 PRETTY PARKS

WILL THINGS GROW IN EL PASO? ARE VALUED AT \$1,777,775 BY CITY

BACK YARDS FURNISH FLOWERS, VEGETABLES AND FRUITS OF ALL KINDS.

ROSES GROW AND BLOOM WELL HERE

CLIMATE IS GENERALLY FAVORABLE TO ALL VEGETATION; YARDS CITY'S PRIDE.

By G. A. MARTIN.

EL PASO is a city easily beautified because of its rich soil and mild climate, and its citizens, taking pride in their yards and homes, have done much to make of it a most attractive place from an aesthetic point of view.

There are few things that will not grow here, except those especially adapted to very warm or very cold, damp climates. Certain roses will not thrive well here, because of lack of humidity, but as a general rule, the rose does well. The hydrangea, that beautiful cluster flower so popular in California and in some sections of the north, where, however, the blossom is not so large, has never been grown successfully here. There are some of the plants in El Paso yards, but the warm, dry days of the summer apparently burn them up.

Lawn is beautiful in El Paso, but the only safe grass appears to be the Bermuda. In many yards there is Kentucky bluegrass which has been growing for years, but any particularly dry or warm season kills much of it in spots. White clover has grown and thrived beautifully for a season or two, then died out.

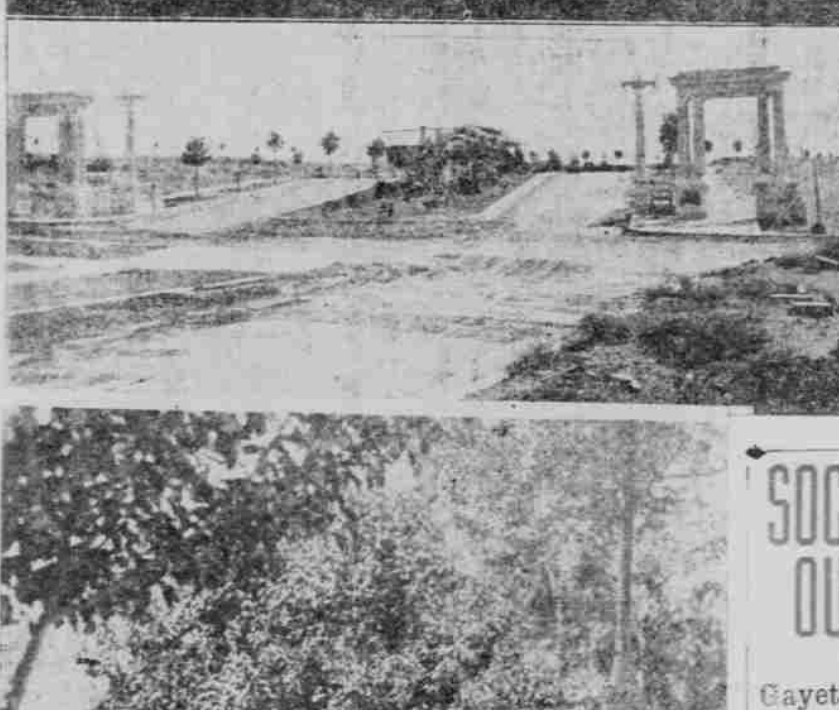
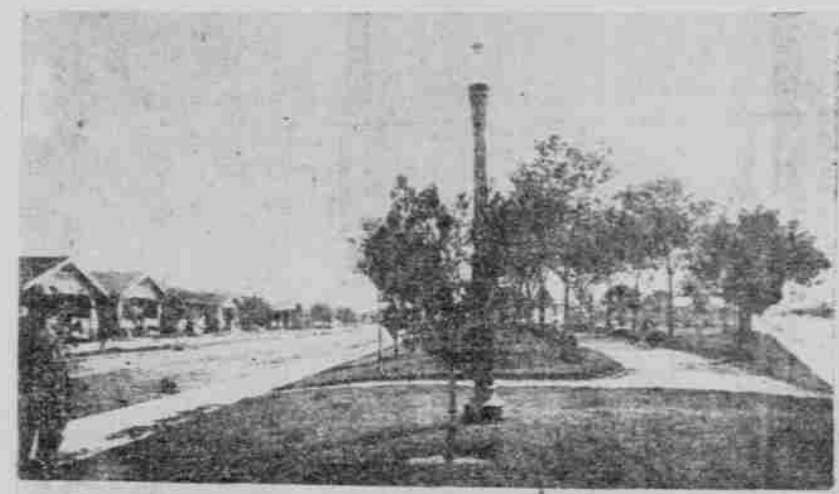
A Disappointing Grass.
From seeds made last year, Australian rye seemed to be the grass best adapted to El Paso's all the year round, for grass of this variety planted in the fall of 1914, passed through the rather warm summer of 1915, weathered the 1915-16 winter beautifully and entered the spring of this year looking just as beautiful, but even where it had the best of care, the warm weather and lack of moisture in the soil during July killed it. The writer is the victim. My front lawn, one of the prettiest in the city until recently, is as unsightly today as it was pretty then. Some say this grass, if planted in the fall and given a winter's start, will survive the first summer and go into the second summer, when it dies, having run its course. That is what my grass did and I gave it the best possible attention as an experiment, in the hope of finding a grass that would remain green throughout the year in El Paso. Whether it succumbed to "old age," I cannot say, but it did not die from lack of care.

Severe Summer on Flowers.
The past summer has been an unusually severe one on flowers and shrubs. Added to this, the disease known as chlorosis, has attacked the trees and shrubs throughout the southwestern country, according to the New Mexico A. & M. college. Root rot of a certain character has also attacked some of the roses in El Paso, according to microscopic examinations made by the U. S. department of agriculture. However, the disease did not originate in this section, but was imported from other states on wood not properly inspected, according to A. G. Graham, county demonstration agent.

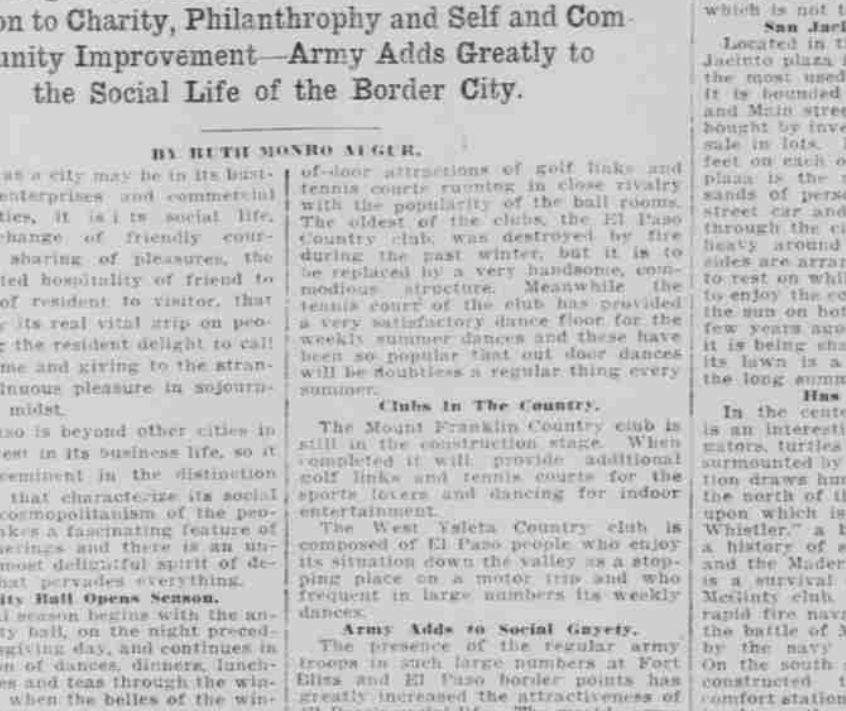
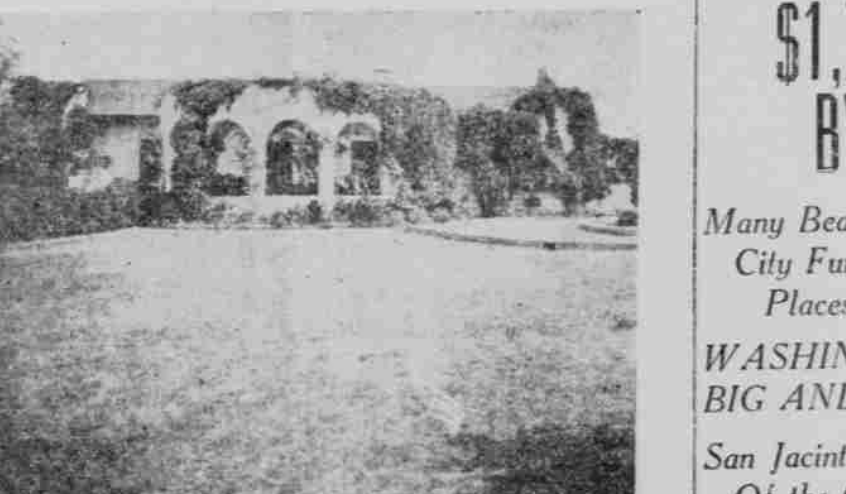
Now, notwithstanding all this, the yards of El Paso attract the attention of the visitor immediately and they would attract attention anywhere, even in communities supposed to be favored more kindly by Providence in the matter of plant climate. The best climate in the world is not always the best for man. People thrive and grow well in the rare, dry atmosphere of El Paso, but plants of almost all sorts like a damp climate, one with plenty of humidity and fog and dew. But without these, El Paso grows beautiful roses, wonderful dahlias and many, many other beautiful flowers. For garden vegetables and fruits except those of the citrus family, El Paso cannot be surpassed anywhere. Cantaloupes and watermelons from the El Paso valley have the flavor that is equal to the best and in size have few superiors anywhere.

Back Yards Beautiful.
Even the back yards of El Paso are lovely in the line of products which are planted to vegetables and fruits. Back yard vegetable gardening is as popular with many housewives in El Paso as it is in other parts of the country. The front yards, with their flowers and shrubs, and with equal success. Many back yards in El Paso have good fruit trees and vines, and a few years ago that would rank with the best shown at any of the fairs of the country.

have grown cantaloupes, watermelons, chili peppers, roses, verbenas, dahlias, daisies, lilies, gladioli, violets, sunflowers, hollyhocks, honeysuckle, grapes, cucumber beans, cana lilies, Virginia creeper, petunias, cosmos and several varieties of bulbous plants and vegetables in my back yard this year and have peach trees, peaches, pomegranates, nectarines, plums, figs, cherries and several varieties of shade trees growing in the same yard, all thriving and doing well.



PHOTOGRAPHS snapped at random about the city showing the growth of vegetation. The top picture on the left is of Austin park, on Montana street, one of the many little parks that are being made in the different suburban additions to El Paso as they are put on the market. The picture below is of the home of H. S. Beach, on Sunset Heights. The third picture from the top on the left shows the entrance to the new Austin Terrace addition. Work was started on this less than a year ago. The bottom picture on the left shows street parking on Rio Grande street, about three years old. On the right at the top is the home of T. M. Wingo, in Government Hill. This beautiful home occupies a full block of ground and the picture shows what can be accomplished in growing things about a home here. The bottom picture on the right shows the growth of a Japanese vine at the home of G. A. Martin, on Montana street. This vine was set out this year and it can be seen running over the second story window.



will roses could not grow here because of their delicate nature and their preference for a damper climate. I put out two this year, grafted on native roots, and have had equal success. Hundreds have had equal success with my plants because I like it and because I wanted to be able to give them to my friends. I have sought and given the public the best information obtainable from pioneers in the matter of planting and cultivating. I have experimented and worked hard with my plants because I like it and because I wanted to be able to give them to my friends. I have sought and given the public the best information obtainable from pioneers in the matter of planting and cultivating. I have experimented and worked hard with my plants because I like it and because I wanted to be able to give them to my friends. I have sought and given the public the best information obtainable from pioneers in the matter of planting and cultivating.

Many Beauty Spots In The City Furnish Recreation Places For People.
WASHINGTON PARK BIG AND BEAUTIFUL
San Jacinto Plaza In Heart Of The City Is Meeting Place For Thousands.

By RUTH P. MARCHEL.

THE marvel of every visitor to El Paso is its wonderfully inviting parks, plazas and parks, which, scattered throughout the length and breadth of the city, strike one as true oases after a long ride across arid country on some incoming railroad. It has not been without effort and knowledge that the city's green spots have been developed from ground that in many instances was lime impregnated and naturally unfit for growing trees and flowers. But El Pasoans are always doing the seemingly impossible thing, and making flowers and foliage grow where none ever grew before is one of their hobbies.

The city corporation's park department presided over at present by alderman John W. Fisher, is and has been for years, most active in acquiring new fields for intensive transformation into parks, playgrounds and parking lots on streets, and then expending upon them money and labor to accomplish deliberate plans with the object of keeping abreast of the expansion of home and business building and providing pretty, restful places for the people. Leaving out of consideration the thousands of dollars spent by home owners for the beautification of their grounds, the work of the city is large.

Various estimates have been made from year to year of the commercial worth of El Paso's park system, but a valuation of the figures in August shows a considerable additional value over any previous year. A conservative appraisal puts the value of the parks and city-owned grounds at \$1,777,775. The land values are estimated at \$1,742,000, the improvements at \$35,775 and the tools at \$1,000.

Values of City Parks
The following are placed as follows:
San Jacinto plaza ... \$1,000,000
Carnegie square ... \$200,000
Washington park ... \$100,000
Austin park ... \$50,000
Newman park ... \$50,000
Austin park ... \$50,000
Alamo (old ward) ... \$50,000
City Hall park ... \$50,000
Washington park ... \$50,000
Trotter triangle ... \$50,000
Robinson park ... \$50,000
Donohue park ... \$50,000
Madeline park ... \$50,000
Balling park ... \$50,000
Coe Hill park ... \$50,000
Union Depot park ... \$50,000
Pioneer plaza ... \$50,000
Miscellaneous parks ... \$50,000

No account is taken in the above table of the value of a tract of six acres of land owned by the city at the waterworks pumping plant, situated north of Fort Bliss on the east mesa, and which has some 200 palm trees and many other plants. Nor does the table include other land owned by the city, which is not to be used for parks.

San Jacinto Most Valuable
Located in the heart of the city, San Jacinto plaza is the most valuable and the most used of all the city's parks. It is bounded by Mills, Oregon, Mesa and Main streets and would be quickly bought by investors, if ever offered for sale in lots. It has a frontage of 250 feet on each of the four streets. This makes the plaza a most valuable piece of property, and it is being shaded well by foliage and its lawn is a beautiful green during the long summer.

Has Amusement Pool
In the center of San Jacinto plaza is an interesting collection of alligators, turtles and fish in a large pool, surrounded by a fountain. The attraction draws hundreds of sightseers. At the north of the pool is a pile of rock upon which is mounted the old "Blue Whiskey" cannon, a relic of the Civil War and the Maderista revolution, and also a relic of the days of the old Mexican empire. Alongside the cannon is a rapid fire naval gun that was used in the battle of Manila in 1898, displayed by the navy recruiting station here. On the south side of the pool will be constructed the new subterranean comfort station, an improvement unique in the southwest.

Carnegie Square Has Library
Carnegie square, situated in the path of travel from the home and apartment house section north of the railroad, is a singularly beautiful park. Its boundaries are North Oregon, West Missouri, North El Paso and Franklin streets, and in its center sits the handsome Carnegie public library, which alone cost \$25,000 and is not included in the estimated value of the park. Well kept trees and shrubs shade the square, making it a favorite gathering spot for children in summer. Numerous benches, provided by the city, furnish a place for rest.

SOCIALLY EL PASO IS UNIQUE CITY; OUT OF DOORS AFFAIRS ALL THE YEAR

Gaiety Reigns Here All the Time, With Much Serious Attention to Charity, Philanthropy and Self and Community Improvement—Army Adds Greatly to the Social Life of the Border City.

By RUTH MONRO AIGER.

GREAT as a city may be in its business enterprises and commercial activities, it is to social life, that interchange of friendly courtesies, the sharing of pleasures, the warm-hearted hospitality of friend to friend, or of resident to visitor, that gives a city its real vital grip on people, making the resident delight to call the city home and giving to the stranger a continuous pleasure in sojourning in its midst.

As El Paso is beyond other cities in the southwest in its business life, so it is also preeminent in the distinction and charm that characterize its social life. The cosmopolitanism of the people here makes a fascinating feature of social gatherings and there is an unusual and most delightful spirit of democracy that pervades everything.

Charity Ball Opens Season
The social season begins with the annual Charity ball, on the night preceding Thanksgiving day, and continues in a succession of dances, dinners, luncheons, parties and teas through the winter. Then, when the bellies of the winter time fill to some season or mountain resort to while away the summer months, they are replaced here by the happy throngs of young El Pasoans, some from school on their vacations, who, with their enthusiasm and spontaneity, make the summer even more gay than winter, with picnics, dances, motor trips and riding parties.

Out of Doors Advantages.
The advantages of El Paso's wonderful climate, which makes possible an almost all-year-round pursuit of out-of-door sports and pleasures, are enjoyed to the full in the social life of El Pasoans. Three country clubs have been formed here with the out-

of-door attractions of golf links and tennis courts running in close rivalry with the popularity of the ball rooms. The oldest of the clubs, the El Paso country club, was destroyed by fire during the past winter, but it is to be replaced by a very handsome, commodious structure. Meanwhile, the tennis court of the club has provided a very satisfactory dance floor for the weekly summer dances and these have been so popular that out door dances will be doubtless a regular thing every summer.

Clubs In The Country.
The Mount Franklin Country club is still in the construction stage. When completed it will provide additional golf links and tennis courts for the sports lovers and dancing for indoor entertainment.

The West Yuleta Country club is composed of El Paso people who enjoy its situation down the valley as a stopping place on a motor trip and who frequent in large numbers its weekly dances.

Army Adds to Social Gaiety.
The presence of the regular army troops in such large numbers at Fort Bliss and El Paso border points has greatly increased the attractiveness of El Paso's social life. The weekly army hops, held in the officers' club at the fort, are delightfully informal affairs that present an occasion for pleasant interchange of friendliness between the military folk and their civilian acquaintances. In addition to taking an active part in all the social happenings of the city, the army people have added to the list of their own sports, polo games, gymnastics, and maneuvers which contribute greatly to the entertainment and pleasure of El Paso people. This summer the army's part in the social life of El Paso has been augmented with the addition to the

Busy in the City, They Find Rest and Recreation In Country Homes.

SMALL TRACTS LARGE ENOUGH

Cows, Chickens, Pigs, Fruits, Vegetables and Fresh Air Make Appeal.

By G. A. MARTIN.

A DESIRE to have homes in the beautiful valley country so close to the city and still continue in business in the city, is taking hold of many El Pasoans of late. For years, a few El Pasoans have resided in the valley and done business in El Paso, but the number is gradually growing. One of the finer homes in the valley was recently burned. It was that of Carlos J. Inarriaga, formerly occupied by A. S. Valdespina, but built originally by the late Dr. J. P. Payne. Another home is that of L. E. Booker, a settler in the valley of Yuleta. He lives there and motors into El Paso to his business. There are a number of nice homes in the valley where the owners live there and make their living from their farming and do not make any attempt to visit El Paso daily, but the number of homes of El Pasoans who are living in the valley and doing business in the city is increasing so rapidly that they promise to be in the majority in a short time. One of the finest examples of the country home in the valley is that of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. De Groot, 17 miles down the valley. They have retired from business in El Paso and are making their permanent home in the country.

Valley Fever Grows.
"Down the valley fever" is one of the latest afflictions of El Pasoans. Many people in the city are either building or planning to build homes in the valley along the country road. Real estate men report unusual activity in small valley tracts. The buyers or those seeking to buy, being invariably business men who live in the city and wish to have a home in the country where they can cultivate small acreages in fruits and garden truck and where they can keep a cow, a few pigs and chickens.

Already quite a few El Pasoans have established themselves in the country homes down the valley. An Arvey station, six and a half miles from El Paso, on the main road, has the largest colony of suburbanites. There, R. L. Inbarant, W. L. Field, Robert Landier and F. B. White form the colony who have purchased tracts and built homes on the country road. R. L. Nichols has bought land between the Arvey and the Fortbank homes and will shortly begin to erect a country home to cost about \$4000. He recently sold a tract which he was occupying immediately back of the Landier place to Louis J. Farley, who will rebuild the house and convert it into a country home.

Miss J. Murray recently traded her Montana street residence to Coles Bros. for a country home near the West Yuleta Country club and with his family is enjoying life in the country and finding in the city to his business. E. W. Mitchell and family enjoy country life on a farm adjoining that of Mr. Murray. All of these men are in business in the city.

Delighted With Country.
All those who have purchased country homes are delighted with their country homes and there are predictions that within a few years the country road will be lined with fine suburban homes of El Paso business and professional men, who want a respite from city life during their hours of leisure and who desire recreation and pasture such as they cannot secure in the city but which a small tract of land affords them.

"I look for the valley to be thickly settled within the next five years," asserted A. H. Caldwell, owner of Rosedale and of the Caldwell farm. The people are gradually getting to understand that they can have no such freedom in the city as they can have in the country, and they are fast looking into the matter of building down the valley.

Paso to Yuleta is going to be a suburb of El Paso in a few years and all the homes are going to be beautiful. They will put in small tracts and make beautiful places.

"Country Life Is Best."
There is a "country life" in the country life to rejuvenate a business man, said S. C. Arvey, one of the pioneer business men who moved into the valley. "It is a great life and I would not give it up for anything. It is the ideal life in the valley. A man only needs one or three acres, just enough for fruit trees, a garden, yard and chicken